

MERCY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

ROCKHAMPTON CONGREGATION
OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE
SISTERS OF MERCY OF AUSTRALIA



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25 September 1997

Mr Norm Alford
Children's Commissioner of Queensland
26th Floor MLC Building
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4001

Dear Mr Alford,

Please find herewith some copies of the Apology that we are offering to the former residents of St Joseph's Home, Neerkol.

We are very grateful to you for your kind offer to arrange for distribution of the Apology with accompanying statement to the media.

If you could provide us with a copy of the Media Statement you are releasing with the Apology prior to its publication date, it would be appreciated.

May I take this written opportunity to reiterate the verbal thanks that I conveyed you on behalf of the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy at our meeting last Tuesday.

Your role in the initial bringing together of the former residents and ourselves and your providing of an ongoing forum for dialogue assisted considerably in promoting goodwill and reconciliation.

The spirit of emerging trust evident at our last meeting was very much a reflection of all that you and John Briton have done to mediate and help ease the suffering and distress the former residents were experiencing.

I can assure you that we shall do all that we possibly can to continue the work that you helped to initiate.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Di-Anne Rowan
Congregational Leader